

At Saint Brigid Catholic School, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

## From the Principal's Desk

I have been attending meetings to talk about re-enrollment and enrollment for next year, plans for Catholic Schools Week, plans for fish fries- fish fries?!?! Why does it seem that our world is continually rushing from one time to the next. We don't even get through Halloween anymore and Christmas decorations and sales begin. Plus there is all the hurry to purchase and wrap gifts, attend parties and concerts, plan New Year's Events and more. Not to mention the children's basketball games, practices, doctor's appointments (because someone is always sick at this time), grocery shopping....it's no wonder that the most wonderful time of the year can become the most stressful time of the year.



That's why it is ever so important during this hectic time that we stop and be still for a time to reflect about for *whom we are preparing*. *God made Himself flesh to live among us so that we would know His love and we would feel His presence, not just at Christmas but for all time. We experience His real presence at each Eucharist because He first was born as a baby into the world. He died for us as a result of the fact that He first came to live among us at Christmas.*

### Important Dates

- 11/30: Spirit Wear Sale Ends
  - Student Council Meeting
- 12/1: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 12/6: Middle School Mass-8:00am
- 12/7: Christmas Concert-6:00pm
- 12/8: Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass-8:00am
- 12/13: 5th Grade Mass
- 12/14: Student Council Spirit Day
  - All School Reconciliation-1:30pm
- 12/15: St. Brigid Spirit Wear
- 12/20: 4th Grade Mass
- 12/21: Classroom Christmas Parties-9:00am
  - 1/2 Day of School-11:30am Dismissal

This is not just a happy time of family, friends, music and gifting. This is a time to think about what it is that God has given us- Himself, for now and for always. So take a moment, put down the calendar and the phone, stop and be still, and think about the fact that this gift was given to you, and to me, and to all those around you. In the words of Linus, "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

*Laura E. Wilkowski*

### Spirit Wear Sale

The Spirit Wear sale closes tomorrow at midnight! Make sure you grab your last minute items today! Orders should be ready for pick up the week before Christmas break. Three dollars from every item will be given back to the school. To view all the items available and place your order, visit <https://saintbrigidfall2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

### Christmas Music Concert

Our Christmas Music Concert will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00pm in the Gym. K-5 students will perform their musical numbers followed by the 5th grade band, 6th grade band, and Shamrock band. All students should dress in their Sunday best and K-5 students should be to their classrooms by 5:45pm. Middle School band students should report by 6:15pm to the Open Area. They will leave their coats and instrument cases in the Open Area until after the concert is over. We highly encourage all families to stay for the Middle School band portion to show their support. We do ask that small children remain seated and avoid moving in and out of the gym during the band performances.

### Feast of Immaculate Conception

Students will attend Mass twice next week, once on Wednesday and once on Friday for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please have students wear mas uniform for both days.

### All School Reconciliation

Students grades 3-8 will be participating in an Advent Reconciliation on Thursday, December 14th from 1:30 pm-2:30 pm.

### Classroom Christmas Parties

On Thursday, December 21st we will have our classroom parties from 9:00-11:15am, with dismissal at 11:30am. Students may wear red and green free dress on this day. K-3rd grade will hold a book exchange so please send in a wrapped book for the party. 4th-8th grade participate in Secret Santa-watch for information from your classroom teachers regarding this. Remember that ALL volunteer requirements must be completed in order for you to attend the classroom party. If you are unsure or need clarification on requirements, please contact Jeannine Hovey at [jhovey@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:jhovey@stbrigid-midland.org).

### Scrip Program

The last day to place orders for before Christmas break pickup is **Friday, December 15th**. Orders placed by December 15th will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 21st in the school office.

The SCRIP table will be open after school on December 1st and December 15th.

Don't forget SCRIP while you are completing your holiday shopping! Purchase gift cards to use in store or to gift to another person.! Why not earn some money back while you shop :) There's still time to join Scrip and start earning money for the school, join today!



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### Kindergarten Open House

Mark your calendars! January 22, 2024 at 6pm we will hold a Kindergarten Open House for those interested in learning more about our 2024-2025 Kindergarten program! Tell a friend and watch for postcards to go out closer to that date!

## Emerald Evening Cash Raffle Sales

Thank you to everyone who has been busy selling cash raffle tickets! We have sold almost 25% of our 1,000 tickets in the first month-that is wonderful! If each family continues to work hard at selling their 10 tickets, we will meet our goal quickly ! If you need some help selling tickets, we have some Mass sale times available to sign up for:

St Brigid: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-46455112-stbrigid>

If you haven't already put a social media post out regarding this fundraiser, consider doing so. This has proven to be a very successful sale approach for families! Reminder, tickets can be purchased with a credit card online at [charityauction.bid/emerald evening2024](https://charityauction.bid/emerald evening2024) or you may collect cash or check and turn it into the school office in exchange for a ticket. Please remind people who are purchasing online to list your family name in the comments section so you receive credit for their purchase. Our weekly \$100 Early Bird Drawings started last week so now is the time to buy to take advantage of all the opportunities to win!

**Congratulations to our 3rd grade class who sold the top percentage of tickets during the month of November! They will have their choice of a class pizza, ice cream, or slurpee party!** The slate is clean and ready for our next month's competition so get those tickets sold during the month of December!

Keep your eyes on our school Facebook page this evening for a video of the winner of the \$1,000 seller incentive drawing!

## ICLE Updates

Our Middle School students participated in their second symposium this week-one of the new curriculum advances we have incorporated with our partnership with the Institute of Catholic Liberal (Arts) Education. These provide a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience some of the riches of our classical Catholic liberal arts methodology, focusing on the Saint and virtue of the month. Mrs. Maribel Erickson was the guest presenter and spoke with the students about the region of North Africa and provided the students with Moroccan cookies and mint tea. Our 8th grade students prepared a presentation on the life of St. Monica while dressed in traditional North African garments. Mr. Wakeman then led the students in a Socratic Circle that drew upon our virtue of the month: hope.



## Christmas Eve Children's Choir

We are putting together a children's choir for the 5:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All interested children, of any age, will sing about 4 hymns as a prelude for Mass. No reading will be necessary. Then we will have the candlelight procession of the children to begin the Mass.

We are also looking for 15-20 third-eighth graders to lead the music as a choir for the Mass. They will be sitting in our choir area during Mass. If your child is interested in participating in this, please contact Barbara Hendrickson at [bhendrickson@stbrigid-midland.org](mailto:bhendrickson@stbrigid-midland.org) or call 989-835-7151, Ext 32.

We will be meeting on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30pm or Thursday, December 21 at 5:00pm for a brief rehearsal. All children who would like to participate should attend at least one of the rehearsal dates Please come in the choir door entrance by the office (across from the County Building Parking Lot).